

TEXTURE

CONTEMPORARY BALLET



**PITTSBURGH
BALLET
THEATRE'S
OPEN AIR
SERIES**

June 11, 2022

4:30 PM

Photo: Mark Simpson Photography Design: Kelly Gallagher-Friend Artist: Alexandra Tiso

TEXTURE CONTEMPORARY BALLET

MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire an appreciation of dance through dynamic and captivating performances, creative choreography, shared passion, and exceptional dance training.

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NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Alan Obuzor

Welcome to Texture Contemporary Ballet at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Open Air: A Series in Celebration of the Performing Arts. I would like to thank Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre for putting on this wonderful series and for including Texture. **I'm thrilled that we can all be here together to celebrate dance!**

Today we will be presenting a range of pieces that are all choreographed by myself and Texture's Associate Artistic Director, Kelsey Bartman. First up will be Kelsey's piece *Old Skin* which is inspired by rebirth and the mythological being of the phoenix. Next up I will be performing a solo from my piece *Shadows and Light*, then the full company will perform a couple of excerpts from my piece *Eclipse* which pays tribute to the beautiful and soulful music of the late Eva Cassidy. To close out the program we will be presenting Kelsey's newest work *Has Ben* which is set to the heartfelt music of Ben Folds.

I'm very excited for our season, each of our programs will feature new and exciting world premieres:

Jumpin' Jive – July 15-17, 2022 at the New Hazlett Theater

Momentum – September 23-25, 2022 at the New Hazlett Theater

WIP Choreography Project – November 5, 2022 at Carnegie Stage

Rediscover – March 17-19, 2023 at the New Hazlett Theater

Visit our website or follow us on social media for more information on our season and to stay up to date on upcoming performances. www.TextureBallet.org

Alan Obuzor

PROGRAM

Old Skin

Choreography: Kelsey Bartman

Music: Olafur Arnalds, Patrick Wolf, Ludovico Einaudi, Rob Simonsen/
L'Orchestra Cinematique, Emanuele Bossi and Paolo Buonvino

Dancers: Rachel Harman, Madeline Kendall, Katie Miller, Sophie Powell,
Jillian Sinko

Excerpt of *Shadows and Light*

Choreography: Alan Obuzor

Music: Max Richter

Dancer: Alan Obuzor

Excerpt of *Eclipse*

Choreography: Alan Obuzor

Music: Eva Cassidy

Dancers: Rachel Harman, Madeline Kendall, Kaelyn Lefferts, Katie Miller,
Alan Obuzor, Sophie Powell, Jillian Sinko

- Pause -

“Has Ben”

Choreography: Kelsey Bartman

Music: Ben Folds

Dancers: Adrian Green, Rachel Harman, Kaelyn Lefferts, Madeline Kendall,
Katie Miller, Alan Obuzor, Sophie Powell, Jillian Sinko

PRODUCTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kathryn Gigler: PBT's Director of Education & Community Engagement; **Curtis Dunn:** PBT's Director of Production; **Cory F. Goddard:** Stage Manager; **PBT's Technical Staff:** Technical Staff; **Peggy & Rick Morycz & PBT's Administrative Staff:** Box Office; **Kelly Gallagher-Friend, Marcia Harder:** Graphic Designers; **Marjorie Liese:** Operations Manager, Finance Manager; **Katie Miller:** Administrative Assistant, Manager of Outreach & Community Involvement

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



Alan Obuzor- Founder, Artistic Director, Choreographer & Dancer

Alan Obuzor was honored in 2013 by *Dance Magazine* by being named one of the “Top 25 to Watch”. Originally from Pittsburgh, Alan began dancing at the age of nine. Two years later he attended Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School (PBTs), where in 1998 he was a recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Foundation Dance Honorarium. Alan received a contract to join Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre’s (PBT’s) professional company at the age of 17. During his seven years in PBT’s Company, he danced a wide array of ballets ranging from classical to neoclassical to contemporary, which included principal and soloist roles in ballets such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Symphony in C*, *Carmina Burana*, and *Divertimento 15*. In that time he also worked with many world renowned figures in dance and was selected to originate soloist roles in new works by choreographers Dwight Rhoden, Derek Dean, Matjash Mrozewski and Jiabin Pan. Alan began teaching in 2002; from 2007-2012 Alan was on the faculty of PBTs as one of the primary Pre-Professional Division teachers and choreographers. In the fall of 2012, Alan joined the teaching faculty of Pittsburgh Youth Ballet. Alan choreographed his first work in 2002 on himself and a fellow dancer. Since that time he has choreographed over 95 new works for Texture Contemporary Ballet, PBT, PBTs, Pittsburgh Youth Ballet Company, New Ballet Ensemble, Harvard Ballet Company, Point Park University, Dancers’ Trust, Canton Ballet, Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, and various independent projects. In 2011, Alan won first place in the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters Dance/Choreography competition. He is also the founder and Artistic Director of Texture Contemporary Ballet since 2011.



Kelsey Bartman - Associate Artistic Director & Choreographer

Kelsey Bartman is a local Pittsburgher who trained at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School (PBTs) and CAPA High School, along with various summers at American Ballet Theater in NYC, Jacobs Pillow Jazz Program, and PBTs Summer Programs. She has performed with Texture Contemporary Ballet for 11 years, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Nashville Ballet, Nashville Ballet 2, and Nashville in Motion, in a wide variety of classical and contemporary ballets, including several Balanchine ballets, *The Four Temperaments*, *Valse Fantasie*, *Theme and Variations*, *Allegro Brillante*, and *Divertimento #15*. Kelsey began choreographing while at CAPA High School, and has choreographed an incredible 79 ballets, 49 for Texture Contemporary Ballet, 10 for WIP Choreography Project, and another 20 ballets for companies including PBT, PBTs, Nashville Ballet, Columbus Modern Dance, Resonance Works, Arova Contemporary Ballet, and Laurel Youth Ballet. Kelsey began teaching in 2010 and has taught a variety of classes including beginning, intermediate, advanced ballet, pointe, contemporary, modern, lyrical, theatre jazz, and choreography for a variety of schools, including Nashville Ballet, Millennium Dance Complex, Xtreme Tumbling & Dance Center, Berks Ballet Theater, Laurel Youth Ballet, Dance Alloy, and Texture Ballet School.

Cory F. Goddard – Stage Manager

Cory likes making theatre and has been doing it in Pittsburgh for 17 years, playing with PICT Classic Theatre, Quantum Theatre, Bricolage Production Company, The REP, Texture Contemporary Ballet, Kinetic Theatre, and Kelly Strayhorn. When not working they can usually be found listening to records, reading, or tending to their plants.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



Adrian Green - Dancer

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, Adrian Green started his classical dance training at the age of 15 at the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts. He performed several works, musicals, and ballets staged by Krista Langford, such as *Sleeping Beauty*, *Paquita*, *Napoli*, and Academy Dance Company concerts. Adrian has attended several summer programs including the Royal Ballet in Covent Garden, the Glenda Brown Choreography Project, and Kansas City Ballet, and was an apprentice with the Pillow Projects directed by Pearlann Porter. Adrian is a graduate from Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts earning his B.F.A in Dance with a concentration in ballet. While at Point Park he performed several works including *Shimmer* by Maree Remalia, *Spokes of Venus* along with *Thresholds* both by Dan Karasik, *Diversion of Angels* by Martha Graham, and was a principal performer in *A Solo in Nine Parts* by Jessica Lang, as well as *In Creases* by Justin Peck. Adrian is a resident dancer at Texture Contemporary Ballet while also performing locally in Pittsburgh as a freelance artist performing in works such as *Bluebird Pas de Deux*, several *Nutcrackers*, and *Swan Lake* as a featured artist. As a passionate emerging choreographer Adrian has created works such as the celestial contemporary ballet "the Green Flash" and the Nina Simone inspired film "Porgy in Blue". Adrian is also a dance teacher in the Pittsburgh area who has taught at Abby Lee Dance Company, Studio 412, Dance Expressions by Erica, Dance Ink., and Dance Academy by Lori, as well as masterclasses all across the Pittsburgh region.



Rachel Harman - Dancer

Rachel Harman, originally from Leesburg, VA, graduated from Point Park University in April of 2017 with a B.A. in Dance. While studying at Point Park, Rachel had the pleasure of performing works by Nicola Petrov and Ernest Tolentino as well as performing *Giselle* choreographed by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot. Rachel has previously trained at summer intensives such as Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, Ballet Austin, and Indiana University. She is very excited to now be working with Texture Contemporary Ballet. She has been amazed by the talent this company holds and is truly honored to be a part of it.



Madeline Kendall - Dancer

Madeline Kendall was trained in classical ballet under the direction of Stuart Carroll and Sharron Newton of Capitol Ballet Company in Sacramento, CA. In 2014, Madeline moved to Salt Lake City, UT to dance with Ballet West where she performed in a number of productions, including *Swan Lake*, George Balanchine's *Symphony in C*, and John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet*. While dancing with Ballet West she was a part of the statewide educational outreach program, Ballet West for Children, performed as a guest artist in a production of *The Nutcracker* in Fairbanks, AK, and participated in a Cultural Dance Exchange Program with the Staatliche Balletschule Berlin in Germany. Madeline has danced with Texture Contemporary Ballet since 2016, as a resident artist, and she has performed with the company at the White Wave DUMBO Dance Festival in Brooklyn, NY. She has also enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with other local artists in Texture's mainstage

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

performances and elsewhere in the community. More recently, Madeline has appeared as a guest artist with The Sacramento Ballet in their production of *Giselle*.



Kaelyn Lefferts - Dancer

Kaelyn Lefferts began training in Bellevue, Washington at Emerald Ballet Theater. She then attended the trainee program at Ballet West, where she had the opportunity to perform *Aladdin* and Balanchine's *Walpurgisnacht*. Kaelyn also trained with Pacific Northwest Ballet in their professional division program, performing in Balanchine's *Nutcracker*, Kent Stowell's *Cinderella*, and new works created by PNB company members. She attended Ballet Idaho's trainee program, and was promoted to apprentice the following year, where she had the opportunity to dance in Balanchine's *Serenade*, a new work by choreography duo FLOCK, and Ballet Idaho's *Nutcracker*. Kaelyn will be returning to Ballet Idaho as a company artist for the 2022/2023 season. She has greatly enjoyed working with Texture for this production!



Katie Miller - Manager of Outreach & Community Involvement & Dancer

Katie Miller is originally from Metamora, MA and began taking dance classes at the age of three. She studied for many years at the Paavola School of Dance, spending summers at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School's (PBTS's) Intensive Summer Programs. She continued her studies at PBTS's Graduate Program for two years, Complexions Contemporary Ballet Summer Intensive, and also received private instruction from Giuseppe Canale of Northeast Academy of Dance. She has performed with Texture Contemporary Ballet for ten years, The Sacramento Ballet for six years, PBT, PBTS, and had the opportunity to perform in The Suzanne Farrell Ballet *Forever*, *Balanchine: Farewell Performances* at the Kennedy Center. The performances have ranged from neoclassical, to contemporary, to tap, to neoclassical ballet exemplified by George Balanchine: *Serenade*, *Chaconne*, *Concerto Barocco*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Who Cares?*, *Stars and Stripes*, *Rubies*, *Western Symphony*, and *Allegro Brillante*. Katie has been teaching from 2003 to the present, at Paavola School of Dance, The School of the Sacramento School, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, in their Pre-Professional Division, Summer Intensive, and Community Division, and Texture Ballet School. She has danced with Texture for ten years and has recently started choreographing for Texture Contemporary Ballet's WIP Choreography Project. For several years, Katie has been doing wide ranging administrative tasks for Texture as an Administrative Assistant and Manager of Outreach & Community Involvement.



Sophie Powell - Dancer

Sophie Powell was born in Kirkland, WA and trained in her early years at Turning Pointe Dance Center and then with Deborah Hadley, where she started her pursuit of a dance career. She went on to train at the Houston Ballet Academy in their Professional Division from 2015 to 2018 where she performed in Stanton Welch's *The Nutcracker*, *The Ladies*, *Long and Winding Road* and others. While in Houston she had the opportunity to present her first choreographic work which was originally performed in May of 2018 with her fellow students and then was featured in November 2018 at Houston Ballet's Elle Emerge program.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

From there she moved to Pittsburgh to train at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and performed with the company in their productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. She continued her choreography at PBT and presented works in 2019 and 2020, and in the summer of 2020 she broke new ground by choreographing and editing her first virtual performance with Shana Simmons Dance. Sophie is happy to be working with Texture Contemporary Ballet and all the lovely humans involved within its organization.



Jillian Sinko - Dancer

Jillian Sinko is a graduate from Point Park University where she received her B.F.A. in Dance. Originally from Bethlehem, PA, Jillian grew up training with the Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. During her time at Point Park, she developed her passion for contemporary dance and finding ways to fuse that with her classical training. Jillian performed various works at Point Park by Susan Stowe, Daniel Karasik, and Rocker Verastique. She has also choreographed several works/films, including *The Other Side* which was featured in The Constructed Sight Dance Film Festival, and *Breathe* which was featured in the Kennedy Center's Art Under a Minute project. Jillian first guested with Texture in their show *Reimagine*, and is so excited to be joining them for her first full season.

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2022 - 2023 SEASON

Jumpin' Jive

July 15-17, 2022

New Hazlett Theater

Momentum

September 23-25, 2022

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